**Hershey Little League**

**Board of Directors**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date: July 14, 2013**

**Meeting Location: MHS Elementary School**

**Members Present:** George Blackall, Chris DeFlitch, Jen Garver-Hynes Pat Meister, Myron McCurdy, Vince Pasquini, Terry Singer, Stan Sullivan, Matt Wildasin

**Members Absent:** Dana Best, Jeff Hahn, Jim Larkin, Dave Myers, David Mysel,

Guests: Chris Painter, Gary Garver

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Myron McCurdy at 6:40 PM.

**President’s Report**: Myron McCurdy

Myron distributed leaflets on the Baltimore Orioles Cardboard to Leather program. This is a program that we will consider as a service project.

Myron has a list of 35 items to look at for next year. The items were not discussed but will be presented as we begin to plan for next season.

**Vice President’s Report:** Chris DeFlitch-

Recognitions & Celebrations:

Brian Bingeman- unanimous voice that Brian did a tremendous job with the fields. Thank you.

Harry Strawser- great job with the summer slam

Dana Best- wonderful job managing multiple challenges with many all star tournaments

Julie Larkin- great job managing the uniforms

Dave Mysel- strong leadership in transitioning the concessions to a vendor.

Jen Hynes- Thanks for putting together a memorable opening day

Commissioners- stepped up to all of the challenges throughout the season

Doug Ruhl- we appreciate your collaboration with HLL (Hershey Little League)

Jim Larkin- kept things on pace for minors

Myron & Chris DeFlitch- great leadership and presence on a wide range of operations issues and complex challenges throughout the year.

DTSD-& Township – great collaborative relationship

**Fall Ball Update**-Pat Meister: Looking for coaches for the instructional level. He is pursuing several leads. Fields for fall ball- will use south for Majors games. Registration will open in the coming weeks.

**Fall Ball for Teeners**: Some parents requesting fall ball for teeners. We can continue to play BB at this age under our Little League International (LLI) charter. Considering 1-2 teams to play against other town teams Chris DeFlitch reported there is a Hampden League. Players with some experience on a modified or full size field would likely be ok in that league. Chris is considering putting together a 15U under HLL. Board approved having a teeners team or teams with Chris as the champion for teeners play in the fall. Chris will investigate the options and report back to the Board. (addendum: Chris reached out to Steve Rollins, who ran the Hampden league last year, and awaiting response)

**Minors All-Star Review**: Jim Larkin was absent. Chris DeFlitch reported good feedback on the 9U experience. They participated in 3 tournaments and had a good experience in 2/3 tournaments. It is likely we will continue with New Cumberland tournament, as they have asked us to return and out team had a good experience. Same thing for the Cedar cliff tournament. Some problems with the Elizabethtown tournament and likely we will not play in that tournament again next year/

10U Blue: Meister- Summer Slam went well. They are currently playing in the Linglestown tournament. Good luck to the team.

Palmyra this coming weekend

10U White- struggling a bit in the tournaments but the kids are having fun. Will look into 10 & 9 y.o. playing in LLI tournaments in future years.

**Majors**: Singer- DeFlitch: 11U Matt Wildasin- lost early in LLI tournament- waiting to play in the Haps-Boyer tournament next weekend.

 12U white: Jen Hynes reported some level of distress in the team- but could not provide any details.

Mr Garver asked why younger players are allowed to play in older divisions- Chris Deflitch answered outlining that this is current HLL rule per exhibit to the constitution re: the discussion has been had frequently and recurrently in the past .

 12U Blue: No report

All star exhibits- Chris DeFlitch reported that the exhibits are not consistent with the tournaments we actually play in

 Terry also found some discrepancies between commitment letter and consequences.

Terry Singer suggested that one thing that would help with commitment letter is to get the dates to families before we ask parents to sign the letter. This may not be possible given the nature of the LLI tournament. There was considerable discussion about the commitment letter including input from Mr. Painter on how challenging it can be for a family to sign a letter and be truthful in disclosure when the exact tournament schedule is not known. He articulated that the letter created a situation for some families where they tried to do the right thing and the net result was that their child could not play all-stars. The board thanked Mr Painter for his letter, presence and thoughtful approach to the challenge of commitment. The board agreed to review the commitment letter and approach to all stars in the off season, via baseball operations.

Majors could use some new equipment- catchers gear, equipment bags with decent basic equipment.

**Member incidents:**

9U Elizabethtown tournament incident- conflict in Hershey-Elizabethtown game regarding the duration of the game in relation to an injury. The umpire interpreted rules differently than the Elizabethtown tournament director. Game was called and some emotions were expressed at the end of the game. There was inappropriate behavior by a representative of the Elizabethtown tournament sending yellow roses into the Hershey dugout. We will not participate in the Elizabethtown tournament again.

12U- There was a conflict between the 12U blue head coach, Phil Wood, and Steve Hynes that resulted in foul language being used in front of a younger team. The Hynes family chose to remove their player from the 12U Blue team. The Hynes family also declined repeated invitations to report their side of the story to Baseball Operations. Baseball Operations did an investigation and determined that foul language was used in proximity to other players and that Mr Wood reported it to be hostile. No report of any physical contact. Matt Wildasin heard it and reported that it was inappropriate. Mr Garver contended that it was a conversation between coaches, not others. Matt Wildasin countered that he was there, along with his all-star team, and they could hear the confrontation.

Myron asked the Board if there was a need to make any decisions now re: if this violates HLL code of conduct and if the Board should consider actions re: the future coaching status of Mr Hynes.

Pat Meister expressed concern that there was an instance last year from Mr Hynes- including threats directly toward Doug Field and Pat Meister.

The Code of Conduct requires 2/3 majority vote from the Board in order to implement consequences.

Myron asked the Board if we should consider this as a violation of the code of conduct as a member or as a coach. Chris DeFlitch pointed out that, based on information provided, this fell under the rubric of coaching behavior.

Terry Singer said he sees it as a coaching issues. Mr Garver said that Steve Hynes may not want to coach next year.

Chris DeFlitch made a motion that as a violation of the Coaches Code of Conduct, Steve Hynes face one (1) year of ineligibility to coach in any capacity in HLL in the 2014 season, including head coach, named assistant or volunteer assistant within any team overseen by HLL.

A discussion followed. After the discussion Terry Singer provided a 2nd for the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

14U incident – There was in incident of conflict involving a 14U coach and some HLL members (families) during a Teeners game. . Chris DeFlitch reported that the incident was addressed and resolved. The teams involved has a second game without coach or HLL member incident

Matt Wildasin suggested that Baseball ops bring in the all-star coaches to talk about the challenges they faced and ask for their suggestions on how we can put the best teams forward.

 South Field has challenges when it rains, as reported by dana best and brian Bingaman (confirmed by many members)- Chris DeFlitch will talk to DTSD in the off season about this, working through Brian Bingaman.

**Secretary’s Report:** George Blackall:

Sought approval of the Minutes from April 14, 2013 and May 19, 2013. Vince Pasquini made a motion to approve the minutes from May 19, 2014. Jen Hynes 2nd . Unanimous approval.

Chris DeFlitch made a motion to approve the minutes from April 14, 2013. Stan Sullivan second- unanimous approval.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Pat Meister: Financial statements as of July 13, 2013 attached.

Concessions: see attached spread sheet.

The board values the relationship with Jay Franklin and would like to keep the relationship strong, while insuring that we are both working within the contract. Next year, we will have a presence for concessions at both north/south (with HLL trailer) and Koons upper/lower (with Jay’s trailer) that should enhance revenue, as it will reintroduce colts at a high volume of games and tee ball for nearly ALL games. The Board may have to revisit, revise or review the contract to consider aligning it more closely with this year’s operating results.

**New Business:**

We will post a call for candidates for the HLL Board around August 1, 2013

**Old Business:**

Motion to adjourn by Chris DeFlitch, second by Stan Sullivan. Motion passed unanimously and enthusiastically.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

**Next Meeting**: August 11, 2013; 6:30 PM at the MHS Elementary School.

Minutes submitted by George F. Blackall, Secretary, Hershey Little League

Date: 7/16/13: revision 1